

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

August 1, 1946.

Dear Sister Mary Christine,

It seems that I am ungrateful for all that you are doing for me as my Co-missionary, because I never write to you, but really I feel very obliged to you, and ask Our Divine Lord to repay you most abundantly. Particularly do I request Our Lord to keep you always in an ever abiding delicate thoughtfulness in all your relations with Him. This is your characteristic. This is decidedly the Divine Will in your regard.

I have written to your parents a consolatory letter because, as time goes on, they need a renewed supernatural strength to bear up with this, their deepest wound, which cannot be entirely healed as long as they live, even though they are most resigned, as they really are, to the Divine Will. God tries keenly the ones He loves. This Cross is a source of many merits for your dear parents, and is going to place them so much the higher in Heaven. Your family is always present in my prayers.

The month of August is devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May our devotion to Her grow ever more and more.

In union of prayer,

Your co-missionary,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 1, 1946.

Dear Sister St. Sebastian,

Pardon me for being so late in answering your letter of May 15th. After carefully examining your letter, it seems to me that the Will of God in your regard at present, and not only at present but throughout your entire lifetime, is to work with all your heart and soul in sinking into an ever deeper Humility, and to live this Humility in all your thoughts, words, movements, and deeds. This will be the golden key for you to open the gates of happiness and understanding with everyone of the Sisters and, above all, to fill your heart with the Gifts of the Holy Spirit, in order to make your relations with God the way they should be.

Pray much for me, as I do for you. I will be very happy to hear from you in regard to what I counsel you in this letter.

Your spiritual father,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 2, 1946.

Dear Miss. Nourie,

Your letter of May 8th., together with the donation for the High Mass for Sister Mary Mediatrix, were received opportunely. I informed Sister Mary Mediatrix of this, the greatest gift you could have given her on her Feast-day. You gave her also with it the greatest joy that can be given a soul which understands what the Holy Mass really means, the way Sister does. We all feel so very glad that her operation for goitre has been successful. Mother St. Eugene sent me a telegram the day before, and then an air mail letter two days afterwards, informing me as to the outcome of the operation.

No doubt, the physical sufferings of Sister Mary Mediatrix, together with her spiritual ones are of great value to you, dear Miss. Nourie, since you are so privileged in being so close to her. Sister has helped you so much in the past, in so many ways. She is continuing to help you now, though in a more silent manner. But since her sufferings and sacrifices are far greater now in her present state, no doubt, dear Miss. Nourie, Sister Mary Mediatrix is of much greater help to you in the sight of the Almighty God than before, when she was able and allowed to guide to console you with her heavenly doctrine, so replete with the Unction of the Holy Spirit.

God has been so very good to you in giving you the precious friendship of such a soul as Sister Mary Mediatrix. This must always be one of your greatest spiritual consolations now that you are again out in

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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Compton, California

the world, in order to be never of it. Continue to be very interested in Catholic Action and to work, as you state in your letter, with "the Helpers of the Holy Souls".

I am always praying much for you, and I want to be as vitally interested in the welfare of your soul as Sister Mary Mediatrix herself.

When you visit Sister Mary Mediatrix, give her my best regards and priestly blessings.

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

OUR LADY OF GETHSEMANI
TRAPPIST. KY.

August 7th, 1946

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.,
Compton, Calif.

My dear Father Ellacuria:-

I thank you for your kind interest in a boy who wants to live close to God.!

We shall certainly be pleased, on your recommendation, to do for William Jones all we can. In case you chance to contact him again, be so good as to urge him to finish High School, and to major in LATIN. We will tell him the same in the event that he perseveres in his good intention.

Begging G d to bless you and your great work,

I am

Faithfully yours in Corde Jesu,

Frederic M. Dunn
Abbot.

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

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18127 South Alameda

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August 7, 1946.

Dear Miss Booth,

Several days ago, I sent you a medallion of the Crucifixion. Its proper name is "The Merciful Love of Jesus", that combines in one the three greatest manifestations of the Love of Jesus for us: His Eucharist, His Passion, and His Heart.

I personally think that this is the first hand-embroidered picture of "The Merciful Love", and I am very interested in it, because this is one of my greatest devotions. That is why I wanted to perpetuate it by placing it in a medallion for a chasuble.

I ordered from you a black set, a purple set, and a red set. I think that you had the idea that I only ordered from you a black and a purple set, but I also ordered a red one. You received from me some time ago two other medallions, one of the "Sorrowful Mother" for the black set, and one of the "Ecce Homo" for the purple set. It was my intention when I ordered the medallion of the "Merciful Love" that it should be for the red vestment, but when I received the medallion from the Sisters of the Order of St. Benedict, St. Joseph, Minnesota, I noticed that the background of the medallion was green, and so I have the idea that in case you do not approve of the medallion of the "Merciful Love of God" being in the red vestment, you could sew it on our green vestment, that also was made by yourself, and was donated to me by Miss Marie Roth last Christmas.

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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So let me know your decision. Could you also come some Sunday with Miss Roth to the Seminary, so that I could choose out of the cloths you have for vestments, the ones that are most satisfactory to me? I also could give you some new orders for our sacristy.

Commending myself to your prayers,

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 9, 1946.

Dear Margaret Mary,

This letter is a reminder that I have you present in all my prayers, since I am vitally interested in the spiritual perfection of your soul. God has been very good to you and has arranged that all the adversities that have come in your way, have turned out for the best of your immortal soul, destined for Heaven, where your darling Alberta (Beata Alberta Therese) is enjoying God's Bliss now for eleven years, and is helping you as your Guardian Angel from her glorious heavenly abode.

The days that I spent at St. Agnes' Hospital in Fresno are very vivid in my mind, and two of my sweetest memories are the holy Baptism of Alberta on her bed of pain, and your own Baptism in the Chapel of the hospital. I am very grateful to Our Lord for His great Love for you both, so closely linked always.

How is your nervous ailment now? I am praying for you so that, if it is the Will of God, it be taken away from you.

I presume that your dear sister, Mabelle, is with you for the summer. She has always been most thoughtful of you, and has helped you so much all these years to bear up with you loneliness and sorrowful bereavement in the corporal absence of your dearest Alberta. Though you really have a most wonderful family; your mother and every one of your sisters and brothers are ever so sweet to you. I remember very well that fine dinner your mother prepared for us in the garden of your cottage.

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Your sorrowful visits to the graveyard of Alberta will always be soothed by the awareness that she is happy and that she does not want you to grieve, but to make the best use of the remainder of your life upon earth in order to increase more and more your merits for Heaven.

Often read Catholic literature, and be a member of some Catholic sodalities, because this will help you much to strengthen and increase your Holy Faith. Go often to Confession and Holy Communion and while at Church, as well as when you are at home, make use of some good prayer books. Have a great devotion to the Blessed Virgin, and say every day Her Rosary. Piety will help you much to cure your nerves and soothe your loneliness.

Extend my very best regards to Mother and to your dear sisters and to your niece, Jayne.

With my priestly blessings for you and your dear ones,

Your spiritual father,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 10, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Meckleis,

I was very pleased to receive your letters and the pious literature that you sent me. I have begun to pray for the Beatification of Mother Maria Conception of the Holy Ghost, and to thank Our Lord for all the graces bestowed upon her. When I was in El Paso, I visited the Chapel of her Monastery, which is very beautiful and inspiring. I am very happy that this Holy Nun has helped you and your dear husband of loving memory.

Yesterday, I phoned Miss Mary Walsh that you wish to have her in your home, and I gave her your address. Nothing would please me more than that you would have the gracious charity of having with you this holy soul. It will mean a perennial shower of graces upon your home. So please do not admit anyone else until Miss Walsh interviews you. Her address is P.O. Box 223, Mar Vista, California.

In case, for one reason or another, Miss Walsh does not accept your proposition, I have in mind the mother of one of our seminarians, who lives in Los Angeles. She is very pious, and has visited the Shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre in Canada. She is a widow, and her name is Mrs. Lucille Whit, 744 South Catalina Street, Los Angeles, 5, California. She has no phone, but you can contact her through the manager at R.E. 7732.

In order to solve this difficulty, perhaps you could pay me a visit, whenever it is convenient for you. Please telephone me beforehand at Newmark 25981 so that I may be at the seminary when you come.

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Claretian Major Seminary

18127 South Alameda

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You can ask either the Smith's or the O'Day's to drive you out here.

I would like to speak to you before you write to Theresa Neumann. Every time you write to her, I want you to remember me to her.

We are now in the month of August, devoted to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. May Our Sweet Jesus give us a great share of His Own Love for Our Most Blessed Mother.

In union of prayer,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 12, 1946.

My dear Patrick,

Your letter of August 9th. received promptly. I congratulate you for your choice. It will be much easier for you now to study for the secular priesthood. In your case this, your last choice, is much wiser than to enter the Novitiate of a Religious Order at once. You are endowed, my dear Patrick, with great sincerity and earnestness and have a very fine character, qualities recognized by all who have dealt with you. I like your disposition. So I encourage you with all my heart to study hard at your Latin. It will not be so easy for you as for the lads who are in their teens, but your constancy will be amply rewarded. Now, Patrick, you will have no worry about giving up smoking, though in case you still contemplate joining a missionary order later on, it would be wise to give it up by and by.

It would please me a great deal for you to come up every so often to see us at the seminary, so that we can give you all possible encouragement in your priestly and missionary vocation.

I tell you again, dear Patrick, that the last choice is the wisest in your case, and believe me that I will keep on praying for you, because you need many prayers to persevere in your holy vocation.

Extend my best regards to your dear Parents, and do count on me forever as one of your friends.

Yours in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Father A

Hail, Heart of Mary
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August 12, 1946.

My dear Mr. O'Connor,

Your letter of August 9th. received promptly. The ten Holy Masses that you ordered have been given immediate attention. They will be, as you say in your letter, for the conversion of your Mary and Joe, and that you all may be a holy family and live each moment for God's glory and pleasure.

I am very glad your spiritual affairs are going better now. Keep on succeeding in thinking and acting kindly toward others. Do repeat constantly the ejaculation: Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make my heart like unto Thine. Live throughout the day, both interiorly and exteriorly in as much recollection as possible, in order to be able to detect the promptings and whisperings of the Holy Ghost, who dwells in the heaven of your soul. In order that the Holy Spirit may hold full sway in this heaven of your soul, as an absolute king in his kingdom, you must do three things:

- 1st. Practice detachment from the things of this earth.
- 2nd. Purify your soul more and more from the smallest faults and idle thoughts.
- 3rd. What I mentioned before, namely, to follow the promptings and whisperings of the Holy Spirit in the practice of all virtues.

Do count on me as your constant intercessor before Christ, Our Best Friend.

Your spiritual father,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 18, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Evans,

Your letter of August 10th. received promptly. I hope that your Retreat last Sunday with the Sisters of Social Service was really most refreshing and heavenly.

Very many thanks for your delicate thoughtfulness in asking the Chaplain at the Monastery of the Angels to offer his Holy Mass on the Feast of the Assumption of Our Blessed Mother for my intentions. You say that you are going to ask the Sacred Heart to bless me and His Mother to grant me what I ask on Her Feast. Words fail me to thank you adequately. You have been inspired by God to pray and act so, since the 15th is the Silver Jubilee of my First Holy Profession. Thank the Almighty God for the help and consolation you have been given by me, since it is He who has bestowed them on you, through my poor instrumentality.

Continue to be most brave in your constant personal battle against Satan and the powers of hell, because God is always with you and loves you most dearly. God needs your constant prayers and suffering for the salvation of numberless souls who are favored through your mediation. Let your confidence in the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary be without limit.

Your spiritual father,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

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August 13, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Mc Kean,

Your letter of August 12th., together with the check for Holy Masses, received promptly. These five Masses for Mrs. Callie Abbott are being given immediate attention. I want you to reassure Mrs. Mc Innis that I will have her dear sister as well as herself very present in my prayers.

It pleases me much that the husband of your daughter, Marie Lucie, has been called to San Francisco for a splendid position. I am enclosing some badges of the Sacred Heart, and tell Marie Lucie to have her husband wear one all the time.

Your dearest Louis is constantly remembered by me at the Altar of God. So let us wait with full trust in God's goodness, Who will arrange everything for the best.

Continue to pray much for me and for the perfect accomplishment of my mission on earth. I do count much, Mrs Mc Kean, on your prayers and sufferings that have been so plentiful. But you know how to endure them for God's sake.

Sincerely in the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

SAINT PATRICK ACADEMY

MOMENCE, ILLINOIS

J.M.J.

Beaverville, Illinois,
August 14, 1946.

Rev. Father Aloysius Ellacuria, CMF,
Claretian Major Seminary,
Compton, California.

From the silence and recollection of retreat, I shall send you the resolutions I have taken to ask for your approval and your blessing. Retreat closes to-morrow morning. I shall not forget to ask our Blessed Mother to grant you many graces on this, the twenty-fifth anniversary of your religious profession.

Thank you for your letter. It was a consolation to hear from you but your answer both surprised and disappointed me. How could I possibly even aim at practicing the third degree of humility when I don't even possess the first? Retreat has been a time of great struggle and battle for themany reasons I told you in my last letter. Then, too, the day before retreat opened, I came here for the close of summer school and in my visit with Reverend Mother, clashed with her. I couldn't agree with her and she reproached me severely for my attitude. We received word at noon time that dear old St. St. Anthony who was to have celebrated her golden jubilee on the 8th with Mother St. Eugene and Sister Eleanore was on her deathbed at St. Mary's in Kankakee. I asked and received permission to go to spend part of the night at her side. I would have given anything not to be obliged to return here.

We have a very holy retreat master; however, I could not see " eye to eye " with him because of my previous experience with him in Momence. However, I did take notes for you of all the conferences and I have spent the greater part of my free time in transcribing the notes. I won't entirely complete them here but I shall have only the last few to complete in Momence. I shall try to do this before the opening of school. I shall send them to you as soon as possible. It has been a task of gratitude to do this for you - a very slight token for your great kindness to me.

The thought of confession, particularly to the retreat master, caused me much uneasiness and much pain.

I rather hoped that Father Moisant might come to visit Mother St. Claire on her feast day as he has sometimes done; however, he did not come, so I made up my mind that I had only one thing to do - to make my confession to the retreat master. It was difficult to do - but God's grace triumphed and I made my confession. After

that, peace finally returned. I now see more clearly than ever, the great need I have of humility- even that of the third degree. The thoughts which have struck me most during the retreat have been the need of a great reverential and filial ^{love} ~~fear~~ of our Heavenly Father, greater and greater confidence in the Mercy of the Son because of my great misery of soul, and constant petition to the Holy Spirit to grant me His seven-fold spirit in all its plenitude. Father brought out an idea on prayer that likewise struck me - that prayer is the cause which will bring down God's graces and blessings to us. Father's conference on " confidence " was one of the most beautiful I have ever heard. He emphasized the fact that our confidence was the measure of our humility and our humility, the measure of our confidence.

It was somewhat difficult to formulate my resolution but I feel that this is what God wishes of me. May I please have your blessing and approval on it? Will you likewise suggest any readings for me on humility and any special way of using this for particular examen? I still feel that I do not do much with particular examen. You told me to continue with confidence and not to change this.

You will be pleased to hear that Sister Mary Mediatrix has now returned to Beaverville. She had permission to come for the last three days of the retreat. I saw her in Kankakee. She recovered from the operation very rapidly; within a few days after it, she was able to be up and around at least part of the time. She looks much better than she has looked for the past several years and she says that she is feeling better than she has for years.

Begging your blessing and your prayers and assuring you of my constant prayer for you, I remain

Gratefully in Him

Sister Mary Dolores

8-15-46

Vigil of Assumption-1946

Dear Father Aloysius:

Your letter just arrived, many thanks, I so enjoy hearing from you. It occurred to me that you might be interested in contacting Rev. Paschal Parente, 117 Curley Hall, Catholic University of America, Washington 17, DC. Father teaches mystical theology at Catholic University and is deeply interested in mysticism. He is at present in upper NY visiting his brother, but will be home in the fall. Perhaps you are familiar with his books on mysticism, published by Newman.

I will speak to you now, Father, as I would to a confessor, so you will understand that I am not attempting to criticize Fr. Parente, but only want to give you all the facts as I know how terribly important this is to you. Fr. Parente in his book calls mystic only those who practice mystical contemplation. A few months ago he told me he had dropped all other assignments to write the life of one of my friends living in Washington, and he rushed into this after knowing the lady only a few weeks--that is not prudent is it? Father told me that he considers the lady the greatest mystic of our time, ~~saxsika~~ and she is definitely not a contemplative, so either Father has changed his opinion, or is contradicting himself. I do not believe in the lady because she always refers to herself as a saint, she does mystical drawing and her picture predominates, appears many times in one drawing, yet she is very charitable and of a sweet disposition. She was examined by a Jesuit here, an authority whose name you would recognize, and the opinion was that she is a case of hysteria. Fr. Parente and the "mystic" do not know the results of this investigation...it was told to me by a Jesuit.

I know nothing about the subject, only the little Father Boyer has taught me. Father is most patient with me and every time I visit him he gives me an instruction on mysticism, I take notes and study what he has taught. Yesterday he wrote and said I am to visit him in October and he will give me some more instruction. One of the things Father has taught me, contrary to Fr. Parente's teaching, is that we call mystic all those who have mystical phenomena, just as we call diabolic mysticism all those who practice diabolic mystical phenomena.

I wanted to make this clear to you before you wrote to Fr. Parente, in case you feel inclined to do so; I know that he will give you sympathetic consideration as he is always interested in anything mystical.

Fr. Clarus Graves, OSB, is still my choice. He would have the inspiration of the Holy Spirit in answering your questions because he lives so very close to Our Lord and His Blessed Mother. If you were to write to Father before the end of August, the letter could be sent to

St. Joseph Church, Moorhead, Minn. then it would not go thru Father Abbot's hands. Father will leave St. Joseph's at the end of this month. I wish I were free to talk about this priest.

If you have any problem which you would like to send to Father Boyer his address is Rev. O. A. Boyer, S. T. L. Villa Pauline, Mendham, N. J., but I do not think Father could act as director. (He failed to answer my letter in this connection). Father has been very ill and I fear he will not be with us much longer. If you do not want to use your name you could send the letter in a sealed envelope thru me, and I could ask Father that the answer come back in the same way, marked "conscience matter". You can trust me, Father, as ~~xxxxxxx~~ many letters pass thru my hands, opened, for priests which I never glance at.

I have never mentioned you to Joe, other than to send my regards, and I will follow your advice about not writing to him on things mystical. Thank you for reminding me. I do not discuss you with anyone; Father, because I know you want it that way, and it is so much easier to climb to perfection when we are leading the hidden life. The thing which I dread more than anything in life is spiritual pride, it is almost an obsession with me, so Father Boyer has taught me not to publicize cases, unless it be that of a mystic like Mrs. Wise whose mission is to draw crowds who might be edified by her sufferings and her words.

Fr. Sponer 'phone me at the office yesterday on his way thru Balto. to Havre de Grace. He said he had enjoyed his short visit with you, and I am glad Father had the consolation of talking with you because he has many crosses. He has been the victim of persecution of the most diabolic kind, at the hands of a woman who is now posing as a mystic...I hope you never come under her influence. Father has never uttered one uncharitable word about this party, has never tried to defend himself, yet the woman has spread her lies all over the country.

Fr. Higgins was here on Monday and I had a nice 30 minute visit with him on Monday evening at St. Mary's Sem. I send my regards to you thru Father. Father had visited a hospital in Wis. and the chaplain who is a friend of mine asked

Father to get in touch with me, so it was our first meeting, and I enjoyed meeting him so very much...he spoke so beautifully about Our Lord that one could almost feel the presence of Our Lord in the room when Father was speaking.

You will be happy to know that our Fatima work is spreading rapidly. In Oct. we will have John Haffert for a lecture on Our Lady of Fatima. He has just returned from Portugal.

Have you ever read the letters of Blessed Theophane Verard? I am not sentimental, but I must admit that I wept over these letters and I cried over the last four letters in the book, his farewell letters to his family while awaiting martyrdom. His father was dead when he wrote the letter to him, but for over two years the priest was in hiding and received no mail from home so it must have been a nice surprise to find not only his mother, but also his father waiting for him in heaven. I must return this book to England. I have a first class relic of Bl. Theophane and appreciate it now more than ever. If you would like to read the book before it is returned I will send it to you. I will now copy what he has to say about his cell. I know that every religious loves his cell, it is his little patch of heaven here on earth, so I know you are going to enjoy these words and I hope they will stay with you every time you enter your cell.

"Every thing speaks to me in my cell" he writes to his sister. "I love it as a mother loves her child. Every thing about it encourages me to charity and devotion. I come in; to the right is my holy water stoup, and it seems to say to me, 'Your cell is your sanctuary: nothing impure must enter it,' and so I leave my worldliness at the door, and purify myself with holy water. I walk towards the window, and look out on the sky, and I say to myself, 'Up there is a place reserved for you; work and struggle hard to win it'. Then I beg Our Lord to bless my labour, and lest any strange thought should disturb my mind, there hangs my Crucifix, preaching for ever by the Divine example. Then above my book-case, the Cross stretches out its arms and covers me with its shadow; and soon I shall have also the picture of Mary Immaculate watching over her Child. You fancy that I may have some troubles in my present life, dear Mélanie? No; I do assure you this place is to me a paradise upon earth. Every one is happy here, even those who, like me, are far from being saints!"

Tomorrow is the beautiful Feast of Our Lady! I am grateful every day of my life for the nuns who taught me so many beautiful devotions when I was in school. One of them was to bless the hour, a devotion which I try to practice faithfully, and my guardian angel surely comes to my assistance because no matter how busy I am, it seems that my eyes always fall on a clock on the hour. Several years ago I added to this hourly prayer three Glories in thanksgiving to the Holy Trinity in thanksgiving for the favors and graces bestowed on Bl. Mother at the Assumption, so tomorrow at Mass I will ask Bl. Mother to grant me a favor in remembrance of this devotion, the favor which you are asking. I know She will answer my prayer, because She never turns a deaf ear to any of us. Please remember me on the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, asking Bl. Mother to inspire our Archbishop to dedicate the archdioceses to Her Heart. I wish I could look into one of the windows of heaven tomorrow and see the Queen of Heaven in all Her glory with all the little angels forming Her crown. Doesn't it simply take your breath away Father to think of the glories of heaven, eternity which is endless and something new every moment...I have so many friends there and I am so anxious to meet them all and have a little chat, but this life is so full of dangers that it frightens one. Please send me your blessing, Father.

Sincerely in Christ.

Betty

Thank you for taking care of the orders for the auto biography, and thank you for the beautiful pictures enclosed with your letter.

B.

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August 19, 1946.

Dear Sister Mildrida,

I received most gratefully your letter of August 11th., together with your donation for a Holy Mass to be said in honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for my own intentions and for those of Sister Mary Mediatrix. The prayers of so many souls near to God made my Silver Jubilee a very happy one. I cherish your prayers very very much.

I am glad that Billy Dresser went to see you, and the way you answered him was the best manner to counsel him.

Thursday is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and I will consecrate you most especially to the Eternal Father, through the Hearts of Jesus and Mary at my Holy Mass. I am enclosing with this letter the Act of Consecration as a victim of Merciful Love that the Little Flower used to make. Say it every day, for I would like to see you a perfect victim of the Merciful Love of Jesus, with full trust in and surrender and holy abandonment to His Infinite Mercy.

My best regards to your dear Superiors, to Sister Mary Regis, and to Sisters Mary Rosella and Beatus who used to be in Fresno with you. Remember me to your own sister, Bessie. I hope that she is well. I will remember you to Sister Mary Mediatrix, whose operation for goitre has been successful, and who is now back at Holy Family Convent, Beaverville, Illinois. At present, she is not writing nor receiving any letters, but she will be informed about your prayers

for her.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

August 19, 1946

Dear Father,

It probably would be untrue to say you have forgotten me for I feel certain you haven't, and yet, if you had it would simply be my own fault and not yours.

I believe the last time I wrote to you was in 1943 when I was in Manteno during my first year as a Professed. I do not remember if I even wrote to thank you for the help you gave me at that time, but I did appreciate it. However, if I was so thoughtless please excuse me from the depths of your charity and accept my heart-felt expression of gratitude.

Perhaps it would be fairer to you if I remind you of the help you gave me in 1942, when I was sent on trial as a novice to Momence for three months. At my arrival you were the Sisters' Confessor and through your assistance I was able to weather the horrible temptations against my vocation. It was during this time that you told me I should have a remembrance in your daily Mass, and that you would ask a special grace every morning for me. Most likely it is my pride, but I have clung to that promise through many difficulties!

Dear Father, if you remember me you cannot but remember that Mother Rose Mary and others have often called me a "Clam", and so I am for truthfully you come closest to being the one in whom I have ever confided, and if I ever had a Spiritual Director it must have been you. In very simple words, Father, I am asking if you will please pick up the loose ends and direct and guide me? I know that you must be busy, but if you feel you could and would take one more soul under your fatherly wing I would be very happy, pleased and proud.

HOLY FAMILY ACADEMY
BEAVERVILLE, ILLINOIS

I have one letter of yours and some notes you had me take in Confession when in Momence, however, I need not go into them now, but await your decision in this matter. This letter may reach you on the feast of the Holy Heart of Mary, and perhaps she will interceed for Her Rose.

I've had permission to write since April, but with school and graduation - I'm teaching the 7th and 8th grades in Beaverville - summer school, and retreat, the writing has been put off time after time until I felt I just must write.

One of the reasons for this letter was to ask you if you would please say a Mass for my intentions: the departed soul of my father, a working-out of the difficulties between my mother and brother, and lastly, for a special intention which time would necessarily reveal if you will find it in your power to accept me as one of your "little flowers". Should it be possible I would like this Mass said on my feast day, August 30, but if this cannot be I leave it to you to decide the day.

Thus I close, placing my hopes and prayers in Mary's Holy Heart.

Respectfully and gratefully,

Sister Mary Rose
"Mary's Rose"

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

August 21, 1946.

Dear Mrs. Buchar,

This letter is to inform you that the two paintings of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which you paid for, are now on their way to the Philippine Islands. The two paintings are very beautiful. I am enclosing herein a small holy card that you may get an idea of how these paintings look.

The Immaculate Heart of Mary will continuously reward you for your great thoughtfulness in donating Her picture to those poor natives who live in the Philippines. You see, dear Mrs. Buchar, that these two paintings are going to be placed in two churches entrusted to the care of the Claretian Fathers. The Claretian Fathers are going to make two Shrines for these pictures. One of the Shrines will be in a city called Santa Barbara on the north side of the city of Manila, and the other will be in a city named Santa Cruz on the south side of Manila. These Shrines, where the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be venerated, will be centers of great devotion for years and years, and just see, Mrs. Buchar, how it was due to your generosity that the Immaculate Heart can be venerated by these paintings. Let all this be for you, dear Mrs. Buchar, a great assurance of the special protection of Our Blessed Mother upon you.

I enjoyed exceedingly your letter of May 20th. Let us pray to your dear little son, Bobby, to obtain for us many graces from the Mercy of God, in order to become holier every day.

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

August 22, 1946.

Dear Mother Mary Dolores,

From the silence and recollection of your Retreat, you sent me the resolutions you have taken to ask for my approval and blessing. You state that it is somewhat difficult for you to formulate your resolutions. Certainly, the Holy Spirit was with you to dictate them. I do approve them fully, with an important addition to your second resolution, as I will state below.

How happy I feel to know that the thoughts that struck you most during your Retreat were the need of a great reverential and filial love of Our Heavenly Father, an ever increasing confidence in the Mercy of the Son because of the great misery of our souls, and a constant petition to the Holy Spirit to grant you His Seven-fold Spirit in all its plenitude.

How good the Holy Spirit has been to you in giving you a keener realization that prayer is the cause that will bring down God's graces and blessings upon us. I would have enjoyed very much to have been present at that conference on "Confidence", when your Retreat Master emphasized the fact that our confidence is the measure of our Humility, and our Humility, the measure of our confidence.

What I must add to your resolutions is this: I want to round out your second resolution by suggesting that you develop equanimity of character, and furthermore a radiantly beaming smile at all times and under all circumstances, fighting the melancholy which is so innate in you, and its evil consequences: moodiness irritability, and impatience.

Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Claretian Major Seminary

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Compton, California

Your spiritual reading will be more or less as follows. I say more or less so that you will feel free to select any other authors.

1st. The works of Abbot Marmion are about the best to develop complete surrender and deepest possible reverential and filial love toward Our Eternal Father.

2nd. The Autobiography of the Little Flower, the Life of Saint Gertrude, and the Writings of Sister Benigna Consolata will enable you to develop your confidence in and close intimacy with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary.

3rd. The book entitled "Spiritual Doctrine" by Father Louis Lallement, S.J., is my favorite to guide me in detecting the promptings of the Holy Spirit.

You amuse me with your statement of how could you possibly aim at practising the third degree of Humility, when you have not even attained the first. We must aim with all our earnestness in arriving at the third degree of Humility in order to reach the first. Let us wish at all times to be deeply sunk in the very bottom of the fathomless ocean of Humility, and in this way we shall never find ourselves stranded in the shallow, foamy waters of pride and rebellion.

The way of carrying out your combined particular examen on Confidence and Humility is well illustrated by the children's game of seesaw. The lower you go in Humility, the higher you find yourself in Confidence. So, dear Sister, play well this game of seesaw. Do be a very humble little child of God, sitting always on the lower end

3
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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of the balanced board with your feet stuck securely to the ground of Humility, with the consoling assurance that it places you upon the very highest point of the balanced board of Confidence in God. So often picture yourself doubled on both sides of the seesaw, with Humility on the ground, and with Confidence high up.

For spiritual reading on Humility, I recommend to you the Treatise on Humility by Alphonsus Rodriguez in his "Practice of Perfection and Christian Virtues". He has also devised, on page 433 of Volume I, of the Edition of 1929, how to practice the particular examen on Humility. So make the applications to yourself from it, always with an alert eye upon the other side of the balanced board where Confidence is seated.

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Claretian Major Seminary
18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

August 23, 1946.

Rt. Reverend and dear Abbot,

Very many thanks for your letter of August 7th. After having received your letter, I have contacted William Jones and informed him about your wishes that he should finish his High School, majoring in Latin. He will follow your advice most literally. He also tells me that he has heard from you, and his mind is now more settled than ever to enter your Monastery, with the assurance received from you that his canonical impediment of illegitimacy will be removed from him by pronouncing the Solemn Vows.

Through some friends of mine, I arranged for him to make a Retreat at Malibu with the Franciscan Fathers, and he has drawn much fruit from it. I will see that he goes there again at least two times a year. I will be very glad to continue as spiritual director to William Jones up to his very entrance into your Monastery. I consider all this a privilege, because this way, if this prospect perseveres in your Holy Order, I will be given an unsurpassing consolation "coram Domino". In return for this, may I request from your reverence a memento in your prayers for three spiritual favors: (1st.) To arrive at that degree of sanctity that Our Lord wants me to attain, (2nd.) To stay always immersed in the third degree of Humility, (3rd.) To have with the Blessed Mother the tenderness and thoughtfulness of Saint John, the Evangelist.

8-25-46

Dear Father Aloysius:

Perhaps you will be interested in this extract from a letter received yesterday.

"We are taking an eight week course of lectures at the Univ. of Detroit on Theology with Fr. Eiton, considered a mystic. This week's lecture is to be on mental prayer. He gives one after each lecture and practically goes into an ecstasy when he does. He has a book just out on the 'Apostolate of Prayer' and we will get one for you and have him autograph it if you like".

If you would like to have the address of this priest I will get it from my Detroit friends. I had never heard of him.

A few days ago Fr. Boyer talked with a Redemptorist from the Bronx who told him that when the Blessed Mother appeared to the little boy there, for 40 minutes during the recitation of the rosary, many in the crowd saw Her. I was pleased to hear this, because my faith about these apparitions was very weak.... I have a priest friend living near the boy, my friend is quite skeptical and he had more or less 'squashed' my enthusiasm at the very beginning. An Italian man living in Baltimore came to see me one evening and brought heaps of clippings from the Italian papers, and it seems they investigated the matter more thoroughly than others and were more fair in writing about the child.

Father, have you seen the little booklet published at Clyde entitled EUCHARISTIC MIRACLES? If not, please allow me to send you a copy as it contains many wonderful miracles of the Blessed Sacrament. Mother Didry writing this week tells me of an interesting occurrence in France sometime ago, it seems that a procession had been forbidden by a French Maire (whatever that is...I do not know) when hail stones fell and opened in half each had the figure of the Madonna; also when pilgrims came back from Lourdes to Orleans their containers of Lourdes water was thrown into the river.. the stream (perhaps when the snow melted in the mountains) rose over the banks and there were many victims; and not far from Bois d'Haine (that by the way is the home of Louise Latteau) 15 men defied the church had a "meat meal" and a few years afterwards not one of them had died in his bed. Mother Didry is French and often she will use terms which are not familiar to me, so I do not know what she means by a "meat meal" unless she is referring to persons who eat meat on Friday. Mother is trying to get for me Graces of Interior Prayer by Poulain. I had a copy which I gave to Fr. Clarus so if you have not read this book which you would find very helpful I will be glad to send the copy from Mother..it will be in French. She is also trying to get for me a book on Soeur Elisabeth de la Trinity and I shall be so happy to get it. Did you know that this book and Autobiography of Sainte Therese were responsible for conversion of Michael Williams in your own Calif.?

Your Holy Founder would like these words of Bl. Theophane: (writing to his younger brother). "...Now there are certain things which strengthen the ascendancy of evil thoughts in us, and these are bad companions, bad books, a forgetfulness of daily duties, and consequent vicious habits. But of all these, BAD BOOKS ARE THE WORST. They are the plague of the present day. A book is bad not only when it contains impure and immoral thoughts, but when it gives false ideas, pretending to judge of every thing, to ridicule every thing sacred or venerable. These sort of books are all the worse when they are beautifully written, as they generally are; they vitiate the taste, and give a disgust for all healthy food. I knew once a young man in the royal navy whose mind had been completely poisoned by this sort of reading; and when he came to see the evil of it, you cannot think how he spoke to me about these pernicious books. My dearest brother, forgive me for saying all this; but I know your passion for reading, and all I would venture to say is, do not play with poison". I love the letters of this

holy martyr and I am giving you the opportunity to practice a little penance with my long dissertations, Father, but I should so like to copy the entire book for you because every word of it is so very wonderful.

It is now after six o'clock and I have been at my desk since returning from Mass early this morning, excepting for time out for breakfast and dinner. A priest once told me it is not wrong for me to write these letters on Sunday, but I am wondering if I made it clear to him just how much time I do spend at my typewriter.....I hope Our Lord will forgive me for the way I use my Sundays. As Father explained, I have so little time during the week, but on the other hand do you think it is wrong because I enjoy writing to my friends; if I found the task an unpleasant one my conscience would not be so tender in this respect. Your advice and criticisms will always be welcomed Father. Will you now please send me your priestly blessing. Thank you.

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

Father Read distributed copies of the encl. booklet when he was made pastor of St. Francis d'Sales in Washington last year, and he gave me several copies. I cannot remember if I have already sent you a copy, but perhaps you would welcome an extra one.

B.

I was away 13 days for a rest. I enjoyed the quiet and peace away from the turmoil of the world. It was at a Sisters Convent, Oh Father I envy those who are living in such quiet, the Chapel was on the same floor with our room Mass at 6-30, and devotions every evening. I am happy to tell You I got in many prayers. You were frequently remembered during those days.

I got Your letter on my return, I saw Billy Dresser
he came to see me, he told me he had his application
in at Creighton University to take up the study of medicine
I did not make any reply. then he said Sister the desire to
be a priest is so intense at times, then again something tells
me not to be, I said Billy You know I never asked You to be
one it is a Grace given You direct from God, don't throw
it away for no matter what You might do and be success
full, You would never be happy, for it would always come
back to You with deep regret. well Sister before I go to study
I fully intend to make a Retreat at the Dominican Monastery
in Chicago, I was there before I went to Europe, I liked it
very much, I told him it was a very wise thing to do
I told him I was praying for him and would continue
so ended that conversation. pray for him, he needs them

Thanking You for Your holy prayers and Blessings
May Our Blessed Lady Queen of Heaven enfold You in Her
lovely mantle, and shower You with all Graces and
Love of Her Divine Son. Is my prayer for You
Sincerely Your Sister, Sister M. Mildreda.

J. M. J. Sunday Aug 11th 46

Rev. Aloysius Ellacuria C.M.F.

My Dear Brother in Christ

Many thanks for kind letter and advice

I was real sorry to hear about dear Sister Mediatrix having to pass through such a distressful as well as painful ordeal of Goitre operations, hoping she has improved. I keep her in my prayers strange as it may seem she has been in my thoughts frequently of late when You write to her please Father give her my sincere sympathy and prayers, tell me if I would be allowed to write to her if I had her Address.

How I wish I could be present on Your Jubilee Day to congratulate You on this Your happy event since such is not possible, my heartiest congratulations and sincere prayers for You and all Your ardent intentions inclosed, find Mass Offering in Honor of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Your own intentions, and Dear Sister Mediatrix, Wishing You a very happy Feast Day it will be 13 Years this Aug 15th since I had my Jubilee and 38 Years since my religious profession

Hail, Heart of Mary
Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary
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18127 South Alameda
Compton, California

August 27, 1946.

Dear Sister Mary Rose,

Your letter of August 19th. received, together with a stipend for a Holy Mass to be said on your Feast Day, August 30th. / It is well nigh impossible for me to take upon myself more responsibilities than I already have. I wish I could do more but my time and capacities are so very limited that my desires are always far ahead of my work. So this explains the reason why at present I cannot be your regular spiritual director as you asked me to be, though occasionally I might be able to advise you upon your request.

The best procedure for you to follow in your daily, commonplace difficulties is to have recourse to your immediate superior for their solution. Go often to her, dear Sister, with an ever-increasing reverence, sincerity, and docility. When major problems arise in your soul, you may ask my advice, and I will do my best to interpret God's will in your regard.

I hope you will have a very holy and happy Feast-Day.

In union of prayer,

Father Aloysius Ellacuria, C.M.F.

C
O
P
Y

Feast of St. Gregory-1946

Dear Father Boyer:

Your letter just came. I'll type the notes on Monday and mail to you. Rose didn't send me anything on her birthday, but Alice received a large bouquet of roses, and I would rather it be she, than I, because she has so ~~few~~ few consolations and many crosses. Perhaps Rose has answered my prayers on behalf of Fr. Regis...I'll let you know when he writes. Did you know Rose was born on a very important Feast of the Jesuits, the Feast of Our Lady of the Way? There are two Our Lady of the Way Shrines in this country, one in St. Mary's County, Maryland, and the other...given by the Benziger family...is a small chapel at the entrance to the Novitiate of the Jesuits at Poughkeepsie. I went to the Jesuit Church last night where they have a picture of Our Lady, a reproduction of the one from the Shrine where so many of our canonized saints went to pray while still on earth.

Fr. Joseph is pleased that you liked the translation and he is asking a favour of Rose..if she obtains it for him he will translate some of the articles about Rose. Fr. Jerome wrote today and said Anne Tansey, who wrote the booklet now in the press, has written an article about Rose, written for children, and it has been accepted by "Manna".

Father, I know a priest who has received extraordinary graces from Our Lord and he is seeking a spiritual director who can help him to cooperate with these graces in the most perfect way. It must be a priest well-versed in mysticism and I wondered if you could suggest such a priest. I have always profited so much from the little talks you have given me on mysticism, your explanations are always so clear and so helpful, so if you know of a priest who understands the subject as you do, will you please let me know. I wish you could help Father, but I suppose that is impossible because of the state of your ~~weak~~ health.

Father Read will be a priest 25 years on Monday next, and I will go to spend the day with Father on Thursday next, if the trains are running by that time. Father told me over the 'phone about his trip to the Villa, how much he enjoyed seeing you again, and how you enjoyed your trip thru the Holland tunnel. I am glad the ms. matter has been settled at last, because the demand for the book is increasing. I am glad you liked the mounts, and if you want more please let me know. They could have been a fraction of an inch smaller, but the picture can be held in place with scotch tape...that is how I fixed the one for Fr. Mac.

Sincerely in Christ

Betty

PS One of my friends has the picture of Mrs. Wise which I took in Washington. When I showed him the picture of Mrs. Wise in agony, he did not believe it was Mrs. Wise, said it looked more like a man.

B